



For Immediate Release
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Officers Assaulted in Separate Attacks at Mohawk Correctional Facility

Rome, NY –Two officers were punched in the face and one officer had an unknown liquid thrown into his face in separate incidents at the medium security facility.

The first incident occurred on Saturday, July 28, at approximately 12:10 a.m. Three officers and a supervisor entered an inmate's room to remove papers he had placed on the windows to obstruct visibility. The inmate picked up a styrofoam cup off the floor and threw it at the officers. The liquid in the cup struck the three officers, one of them in the face. The inmate moved toward the officers in a threatening manner armed with a pen. The officers secured the door with the inmate inside the room. After a short period of time had passed, the inmate complied with orders and exited the room with no further incident.

The inmate, 33 years old, was placed in a special housing unit pending a disciplinary hearing. He is serving a 10 year sentence after being convicted of Robbery 1st in New York County in 2010.

The officer hit with the liquid in the face was treated at the facility and transferred to a local hospital for exposure. The liquid is believed to have been urine.

On Tuesday, July 31, at approximately 1:11 p.m., an inmate who was entering the recreation yard refused to submit to a random pat frisk for contraband. The officer gave the inmate a second order to comply and he refused. The inmate proceeded to punch the officer in the left eye. A second officer came to assist and was struck in the face. The inmate was given orders to stop the attacks but he refused. The two officers, along with a third, were able to get the inmate under control using body holds.

The 33 year old inmate was removed from the scene and placed in a special housing unit. He is serving a 20 year to life sentence after being convicted in Orange County in 2003 for Murder 2nd, Assault 1st, Assault 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd.

The three officers were treated at the facility by medical personnel and remained on duty. They sustained minor bruising and abrasions in the attack.

"Incidents such as these are a reminder that with relaxed disciplinary sanctions for inmates, attacks like this will be a common occurrence. These assaults are occurring during routine functions, clearly proving there is a need for stricter measures to deter unprovoked attacks from occurring. If measures aren't strengthened, our members will continue to be at risk ." – Scott Carpenter, Central Region VP of NYSCOPBA.